

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1622  
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2001  
HUNGER FREE INDIA  
ANANTA NAYAK;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

**Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a Conference "Towards Hunger Free India" was organized in April, 2001, jointly by the Planning Commission, World Food Programme and MS Swaminathan Research Foundation;
- (b) if so, the main issues discussed in the Conference.
- (c) whether the Government propose to review the food procurement policy, as surplus production of foodgrains had not solved the hunger problem;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENTS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF PLANNING, STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a): Yes Sir, a national Consultation on "Towards Hunger Free India" was held between 24-26th April, 2001 in New Delhi organized jointly by the Planning Commission, the World Food Programme and MS Swaminathan Research Foundation.

(b): The discussion mainly revolved around the question of ensuring food security to all in India. The different technical sessions, accordingly, deliberated upon the themes of :

- (i) food availability and vulnerability to national disasters
- (ii) food absorption and utilization and
- (iii) sustainable livelihood and economic access to food.

(c) : The Government of India (Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution) constituted a High Level Committee for formulating a Long Term Grain Policy for the country in November, 2000. One of the terms of reference of the Committee refers to examining the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and price support operations. The High Level Committee is expected to give its report by September 30, 2001.

(d) & (e): Do not arise.